

πολυάρητος: Signposting Epiphany in the *Hymn to Demeter* and the *Odyssey*

1. *Dem.* 219-23<sup>1</sup> (trans. M. L. West 2003)

παῖδα δέ μοι τρέφε τόνδε, τὸν ὀψίγονον καὶ ἄελπτον  
ᾧπασαν ἀθάνατοι, **πολυάρητος** δέ μοί ἐστιν.  
εἰ τὸν γ' ἐκθρέψαιο καὶ ἥβης μέτρον ἴκοιτο  
ἧ ῥά κέ τις σε ἰδοῦσα γυναικῶν θηλυτεράων  
ζηλώσαι· τόσα κέν τοι ἀπὸ θρεπτήρια δοίην.

Just rear this boy for me, whom the  
immortals have granted me, late and  
beyond expectation, but **in answer to  
many a prayer**. If you were to raise  
him and see him to young manhood's  
measure, then any woman who saw you  
might well envy you, so richly would I  
repay you for his nurturing.

2. *Od.* 6.276-81<sup>2</sup> (trans. R. Lattimore 1967)

τίς δ' ὄδε Ναυσικάα ἔπεται καλὸς τε μέγας τε  
ξείνος; ποῦ δέ μιν εὔρε; πόσις νύ οἱ ἔσσεται αὐτῆ.  
ἧ τίνα που πλαγχθέντα κομίσατο ἧς ἀπὸ νηὸς  
ἀνδρῶν τηλεδαπῶν, ἐπεὶ οὐ τινες ἐγγύθεν εἰσίν·  
ἧ τίς οἱ εὐξαμένη **πολυάρητος** θεὸς ἦλθεν  
οὐρανόθεν καταβάς, ἔξει δέ μιν ἤματα πάντα.

Who is this large and handsome stranger  
whom Nausikaa has with her, and where  
did she find him? Surely, he is to be her  
husband, but is he a stray from some ship  
of alien men she found for herself, since  
there are no such hereabouts? Or did  
some god **after much entreaty** come  
down in answer to her prayers, out of  
the sky, and all his days will he have  
her?

3. *Od.* 19.403-404 (trans. R. Lattimore 1967)

Αὐτόλυκ', αὐτὸς νῦν ὄνομ' εὔρεο, ὅτι κε θεῖο  
παιδὸς παιδί φίλω· **πολυάρητος** δέ τοί ἐστι.

Autolykos, now find yourself that name  
you will bestow on your own child's dear  
child, for you have **prayed much** to have  
him.

4. *Od.* 19.410-412 (trans. R. Lattimore 1967)

αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ γε,  
ὅππότε' ἂν ἠβήσας μητρῷον ἐς μέγα δῶμα  
ἔλθῃ Παρνησόνδ', ὅθι πού μοι κτήματ' ἔασι,  
τῶν οἱ ἐγὼ δώσω καὶ μιν χαίροντ' ἀποπέμψω.

Then when he grows up, and comes to  
the great house of his mother's line, and  
Parnassos, where there are possessions  
that are called mine, I will give him  
freely of these to make him happy, and  
send him back to you.

<sup>1</sup> Greek text from N. J. Richardson 1974

<sup>2</sup> Greek text from P. Von der Mühl 1984

5. *Od.* 7.139-145 (trans. R. Lattimore 1967)

αὐτὰρ ὁ βῆ διὰ δῶμα πολύτλας δῖος Ὀδυσσεύς  
πολλὴν ἠέρ' ἔχων, ἣν οἱ περίχευεν Ἀθήνη,  
ᾧφρ' ἵκετ' Ἀρήτην τε καὶ Ἀλκίνοον βασιλῆα.  
ἀμφὶ δ' ἄρ' Ἀρήτης βάλε γούνασι χεῖρας Ὀδυσσεύς,  
καὶ τότε δὴ ῥ' αὐτοῖο πάλιν χύτο θέσφατος ἀήρ.  
οἱ δ' ἄνευ ἐγένοντο δόμον κάτα φῶτα ἰδόντες,  
θαύμαζον δ' ὀρόωντες·

But now long-suffering great Odysseus  
went on through the house, wearing still  
the deep mist that Athene had drifted  
about him, until he came to Arete and to  
the king, Alkinoös. Odysseus clasped  
Arete's knees in his arms, and at that  
time the magical and surrounding mist  
was drifted from him, and all fell silent  
through the house when they saw the  
man there, and they wondered looking on  
him.

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